

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing polymeric material for a medical device, said method comprising:

contacting the polymeric material with a liquid composition comprising [a] an organic dye and a reducing agent for a time sufficient to impregnate the polymeric material with the organic dye; and

removing the impregnated polymer from the liquid composition;

wherein the impregnated polymer is effective to release the organic dye into a tissue or fluid that contacts the impregnated polymer.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein said contacting comprises immersing the polymeric material in the liquid composition for a time selected to be between about one minute and about 24 hours.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein said contacting comprises immersing the polymeric material in the liquid composition for a time selected to be between about 60 minutes and about 240 minutes.

18. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the liquid composition is an aqueous composition.

19. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the liquid composition comprises a solvent selected from the group consisting of: water, an alcohol, tetrahydrofuran, acetone, and mixtures thereof.

20. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of: acrylics, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, fluorocarbons, hydrogels, polyacetals, polyamides, polyurethane/polycarbonates, polyesters, poly(ether, ketones) (PEK), polyimides (nylons), polyolefins, polystyrene, polysulfones, polyurethanes, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), silicone rubbers, polyethylene, polyurethane, latex, polyesters, poly(ethylene-terephthalate), and blends of these polymers.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of: poly(amino acids), polyanhydrides, polycaprolactones, poly(lacti-glycolic acid), polyhydroxybutyrates, polyorthoesters, and blends of these polymers.

22. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the organic dye is selected from the group consisting of: methylene blue, toluidine blue, methylene violet, azure A, azure B, azure C, brilliant cresol blue, thionin, methylene green, bromcresol green, gentian violet, acridine orange, brilliant green, acridine yellow, quinacrine, trypan blue, trypan red and mixtures of these dyes.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of: ascorbic acid, ferrous gluconate, ~~other reducing agents~~ and mixtures thereof.

24-25. (cancelled)

26. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein, upon extended contact of the impregnated polymer with a tissue or aqueous fluid, the organic dye leaches from the impregnated polymer into the tissue or fluid for at least two weeks.

27. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein, upon extended contact of the impregnated polymer with a tissue or aqueous fluid, the organic dye leaches from the impregnated polymer into the tissue or fluid for at least one month in an amount sufficient to

inhibit bacteria growth.

28. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein the impregnated polymer is operable to release the organic dye into a tissue or aqueous fluid in contact with the impregnated polymer for at least one month.

29. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein the impregnated polymer is operable to release the organic dye into a tissue or aqueous fluid in contact with the impregnated polymer for at least two months.

30. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the impregnated polymer is in the form of a catheter.

31. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the impregnated polymer is in the form of a surgical staple.

32. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the impregnated polymer is in the form of one or more fluid conduits within a dialysis machine or a water purifying system.

33. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the impregnated polymer is in the form of an absorbent sponge.

34. (new) The method of claim 15 wherein the organic dye comprises methylene blue.

35. (new) A method of making a medical device that includes at least one polymeric material having antibacterial effect, said method comprising:
providing a medical device that includes at least one polymeric material;

contacting the polymeric material with a liquid composition comprising an organic dye and a reducing agent for a time sufficient to impregnate the polymeric material with the organic dye; and

removing the impregnated polymer from the liquid composition;

wherein the impregnated polymer is effective to release the organic dye into a tissue or fluid that contacts the impregnated polymer.

36. (new) The method in accordance with claim 35 wherein said contacting comprises submerging the medical device in the liquid composition.

37. (new) The method in accordance with claim 35 wherein the organic dye comprises methylene blue.

38. (new) The method in accordance with claim 35 wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid, ferrous gluconate and mixtures thereof.

39. (new) The method in accordance with claim 35 wherein the medical device comprises a device selected from the group consisting of a catheter, a surgical staple, a fluid conduit for use in a dialysis machine or a water purifying system and an absorbent sponge.

40. (new) The method in accordance with claim 35 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of: acrylics, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, fluorocarbons, hydrogels, polyacetals, polyamides, polyurethane/polycarbonates, polyesters, poly(ether, ketones) (PEK), polyimides (nylons), polyolefins, polystyrene, polysulfones, polyurethanes, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), silicone rubbers, polyethylene, polyurethane, latex, polyesters, poly(ethylene-terephthalate), and blends of these polymers.

41. (new) The method in accordance with claim 35 wherein the polymeric material comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of: poly(amino acids), polyanhydrides,

polycaprolactones, poly(lacti-glycolic acid), polyhydroxybutyrates, polyorthoesters, and blends of these polymers.